

Claims:

1. A method of ablation of an atrium of a heart of a patient, comprising:
selecting a first elongated ablation component carrying a longitudinally extending first
means for delivery of ablation energy and a second elongated ablation component and
movable relative to the first ablation component, wherein the first and second
components are provided with means mounted to and extending along the first and
second components for magnetically attracting the first and second ablation
components toward one another along the length of the first means for delivery of
ablation energy;

5 placing selected one of the first and second components along a first portion of
tissue of the atrium on an external portion of the heart adjacent one or more
pulmonary veins;

10 placing the other of the first and second components along a second portion of
tissue of the atrium on an external portion of the heart adjacent the one or more
pulmonary veins to allow the magnetically attracting means to draw the first and
second components toward one another to compress the first and second portions of
tissue therebetween, along the length of the first and second components; and
15 applying ablation energy.

20 2. A method as in claim 1 wherein the second elongated ablation
component carries a longitudinally extending second means for delivery of ablation
energy.

25 3. A method as in claim 1 wherein the attracting means comprises a
magnet mounted to one of the first and second components.

4. A method as in claim 3 wherein the magnet comprises a rare earth
magnet.

5. A method as in claim 3 wherein the magnet comprises an electromagnet.
- 5 6. A method as in claim 1 wherein the attracting means comprises magnets mounted to both of the first and second components.
7. A method as in claim 1 wherein the first and second components are rigid.
- 10 8. A method as in claim 1 wherein the first component is rigid and the second component is sufficiently flexible to be deflected into alignment with the first component by the attracting means.
- 15 9. A method as in claim 1 wherein the first and second components are mounted to one another.
- 20 10. A method as in claim 9 wherein the first and second components are mounted to one another by means of a hinge and wherein allowing the magnetically attracting means to draw the first and second components toward one another to compress the first and second portions of tissue comprises pivoting the first and second components using the hinge.
- 25 11. A method as in claim 10 wherein the first and second components are mounted to jaws of an electrosurgical hemostat.
12. A method as in claim 1 wherein the first and second components are not mounted to one another.

13. A method as in claim 1 wherein one of the first and second components is provided with a pre-formed curve.

5 14. A method as in claim 1 wherein each of the first and second components is provided with a pre-formed curve.

10 15. A method of ablation of an atrium of a heart of a patient, comprising: selecting a first elongated ablation component carrying a longitudinally extending first means for delivery of ablation energy and a second elongated ablation component and movable relative to the first ablation component, wherein the first and second components are provided with at least one magnet mounted to at least one of the first and second components and the first and second components are movably joined together;

15 placing selected one of the first and second components along a first portion of tissue of the atrium on an external portion of the heart adjacent one or more pulmonary veins;

20 placing the other of the first and second components along a second portion of tissue of the atrium on an external portion of the heart adjacent the one or more pulmonary veins to allow the magnet to draw the first and second components toward one another to compress the first and second portions of tissue therebetween, along the length of the first and second components; and

applying ablation energy.

25 16. A method as in claim 15 wherein the second elongated ablation component carries a longitudinally extending second means for delivery of ablation energy.

17. A method as in claim 15 wherein the magnet comprises a rare earth magnet.

18. A method as in claim 15 wherein the magnet comprises an electromagnet.

5 19. A method as in claim 15 wherein at least one magnet is mounted to each of the first and second components.

20. A method as in claim 15 wherein the first and second components are rigid.

10 21. A method as in claim 15 wherein the first component is rigid and the second component is sufficiently flexible to be deflected into alignment with the first component by the attracting means.

15 22. A method as in claim 15 wherein the first and second components are movably joined to one another by means of a hinge.

23. A method as in claim 22 wherein the first and second components are mounted to jaws of an electrosurgical hemostat.

20 24. A method as in claim 15 wherein one of the first and second components is provided with a pre-formed curve.

25. A method as in claim 15 wherein each of the first and second components is provided with a pre-formed curve.